In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A stent for use within a body lumen of a patient, comprising:

(a) a coil segment defining a lumen therethrough and including a distal portion, a middle portion, and a proximal portion, the coil segment comprising a wound element including one or more windings spaced from each other along at least a portion of the length of the coil segment, the spaced windings being separated by a distance of at least about 0.5 millimeters, the coil segment being extendable lengthwise from a first length to an extended length and being compressible lengthwise from the extended length, and being reducible in width at least to an extent needed to pass the stent into the body lumen of the patient by winding the wound element, each of the distal and proximal portions including a diameter greater than a diameter of the middle portion when the stent is positioned coaxially within the body lumen of the patient; and

(b) a flexible polymer material encapsulating ~~at least a portion of~~ the coil segment and disposed between the spaced windings of the wound element to form an imperforate flexible webbing between the windings that inhibits ingrowth of body tissue between the windings when the stent is placed within the body lumen of the patient while also maintaining the lumen of the coil segment open, the imperforate flexible webbing comprising an outer layer and an inner layer, the outer and inner layers adhered together to encapsulate the coil segment.

2. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the wound element comprises a wire of a biocompatible material.

3. (Original) The stent according to claim 2 wherein the biocompatible material is selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, titanium, a nickel-titanium alloy, or a polymer.

4. (Original) The stent of claim 2 wherein a cross-sectional area of the wire is in the range of from about 7.9×10^{-3} millimeters^2 to about 7.1 millimeters^2.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein each of the distal and proximal portions includes one or more hooks to permit connection to a delivery system.

7. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the flexible polymer material comprises a low durometer silicone.

8. (Original) The stent of claim 7 wherein the low durometer silicone has a Shore A hardness in the range of from about 0 durometers to about 60 durometers.

Claims 9-16. (Canceled)